

American Wives Preside Over Many Foreign Embassies

Mistresses of All European Legations Will Be American Born When Lady Geddes Comes

AMERICAN women have made many international marriages, but the list of those who have got into foreign diplomatic services is not large. This may be because in some European chancelleries "petticoat influence" was looked upon as a fearsome thing, and especially was there a dread of the reputed sway of American wives over their husbands. It was long a European principle that there should be no divided counsels or variable allegiance in diplomacy, and, therefore, the marriage of diplomatic representatives with foreigners was discouraged, especially marriage with a national of the country to which the diplomat was accredited.

Germany was a notable exception to the general rule, particularly in the case of ambassadors at Washington. In years gone by Germany made no secret of her desire and efforts to cultivate a position of exceptional friendliness and influence in Washington. One of the methods used was the choice of ambassadors with American wives. Both the late Baron Speck von Sternburg and Count von Bernstorff married American women, and neither of them ever tired of giving publicity to the fact. At the time of the Boxer Rebellion in China much was made of the American marriage of Count von Waldersee, who was sent to China by the Kaiser for the injunction to make the Chinese class the German soldier with Attila the Hun.

All Are Americans

When Sir Auckland Geddes arrives in Washington as the new British Ambassador the unusual condition will exist of every European embassy there having an American mistress. Mme. Jusserand, Baroness Avezzano, Baroness de Cartier de Marchienne and Señora de Riano, wife of the Spanish Ambassador, all are Americans. Señora de Riano was Miss Alice Ward, of New York. She spent most of her girlhood days in Washington and was the chum of Mrs. Nicholas Longworth when, as Miss Alice Roosevelt, she led Washington society. Had not Dr. Domicio da Gama been transferred to London and Señor Bonillas gone back to Mexico, there would be two more ambassadors in Washington with American wives, as Dr. da Gama was Brazilian Ambassador and Señor Bonillas was Mexican Ambassador.

Other American women who are presiding over foreign establishments in Washington are Mme. Ekengren, wife of the Minister from Sweden, and Mme. Panaretto, wife of the Minister from Bulgaria. Mme. Ekengren was Miss Laura Jackson, a Washington girl.

New to Diplomacy

Sir Auckland Geddes is a recent recruit to diplomacy, and the idea of becoming a diplomat had not entered his thoughts when he married Miss Isabella G. Ross, of Staten Island, in 1905. He was at that time assistant professor of anatomy at Edinburgh University, where he was educated and won the gold medal for anatomy.

Lady Geddes, who is the third daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Ross, for many years residents of Livingston, S. I., was born at Dobbs Ferry. She was educated on Staten Island, at Wind-

sor, N. S., and Dobbs Ferry. After her marriage she lived first in Edinburgh. Later her husband became professor of anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, and a year before the war took the same position at McGill University, Montreal, of which he soon became principal. In giving up this position to enter the army he relinquished one of the greatest prizes in the academic world.

Sir Auckland's hobby has always been military tactics. He was a lieutenant in the Boer War and in November, 1914, went to England to accept a commission as major in the British forces. In a short time he received a staff appointment in France, where he was wounded and invalided back to London.

Have Five Children

Lady Geddes remained in Montreal until her husband's appointment as Minister of National Service, when she joined him in London. She has a sister, Mrs. Roger Houghton, and a brother, Percy H. Ross, living on Staten Island. Three sisters and a brother live in England. Sir Auckland and Lady Geddes have five children—four sons and one daughter.

M. Jusserand is a diplomat by career and has been French Ambassador at Washington for more than seventeen years, his appointment to the post having been made in 1902, while he arrived to take up his duties on the last day of January, 1903. Mme. Jusserand was Miss Elise Richards. Her parents were natives of Boston, but lived for years in Paris, where she was born, and she never saw her own country until she came here as the wife of the French Ambassador, though her brother, George L. Richards, had returned to America and made his home in Washington.

In 1913 Mme. Jusserand broke up the free lunch system among the younger members of the diplomatic corps in Washington. Hosts and hostesses outside the exclusive circle had found a means of obtaining diplomatic names to grace their dinner lists through the willingness of young attachés to accept invitations, even though their wives did not feel it convenient to attend the affairs. Mme. Jusserand as doyenne of the corps put a ban on bachelor diplomats attending the functions of uncensored hostesses and married diplomats dining out without their wives. The orders bit into the diplomatic bourse, but restored the exclusiveness of the corps.

Another French statesman with an American wife is Alexandre Ribot, ex-Premier and several times Minister of Foreign Affairs. M. Ribot married fifty years ago Miss Mary Burch, of Chicago, grandniece of Erasmus Corning, of Albany, and daughter of Isaac Burch, who in the middle of the last century was the leading banker of Chicago. Mme. Ribot went to Paris when a girl and there married a young lawyer named Demangeot. He on his deathbed asked M. Ribot, who had long been his most intimate friend, to take charge of his affairs and settle his estate. It was during this task that M. Ribot and Mme. Demangeot formed the intimacy that ended in their marriage.

Her Husband's Helper

When M. Ribot visited America in 1896 a friend said of Mme. Ribot: "She is a woman of great beauty,



AMONG the American women who have become the wives of foreign diplomats are: At the upper left, Baroness de Cartier de Marchienne, wife of the first Belgian Ambassador to the United States, who was Mrs. Hamilton Cary, of New York; center, Mme. Grouitch, wife of the former Serbian Minister, formerly Miss Mabel G. Dulap, of Clarksburg, W. Va.; Mme. da Gama (upper right), wife of the Brazilian Ambassador, who was Mrs. Arthur H. Hearn, of New York; lower left, Baroness Romano Avezzano, wife of the Italian Ambassador, formerly Miss Marie Jacqueline Taylor, of St. Louis; and Mme. Jusserand (lower right), wife of M. Jusserand, Ambassador from France and dean of the diplomatic corps in Washington. Mme. Jusserand is credited with being one of the most influential hostesses at the national capital. She was Miss Elise Richards. She was born in Paris, but the home of her parents was Boston



personal charm and intellectual force. She is ambitious for her husband's advance in public life and has been of much assistance to him. She is constant in her devotion to his labors and spends most of her time in his study when visitors are not present. Once early in his career she was asked if she would like her husband to be a minister. 'No,'

Count d'Aunay, who was retired from the French diplomatic service in 1910, married an American, the sister of Mrs. Marion Crawford. Baron Romano Avezzano married

his American wife while he was a secretary at the Italian Embassy in Washington several years ago. He had no title when he first went to Washington, but while there discovered among his old family papers documents which led him to believe that his father had the right to the title of marchese. He submitted his claim to the Consulta Heraldica at

Rome and somewhat prematurely assumed the title of marchese. The Consulta rejected his claim to the title of marchese, but later the title of baron was accorded to him.

The Baroness Avezzano was Miss Marie Jacqueline Taylor, of St. Louis. Her mother is now the wife of Dr. Frederick Clark, of Harbor Hill, New Brighton, Staten Island.

Until Recent Years Very Few Women Born Here Got Into Foreign Diplomatic Circle

The honeymoon trip of the young diplomat and his bride was half way round the world to Peking, where he had been appointed first secretary of the Italian Legation. He showed such ability there that he became the "trouble man" of the Italian diplomatic corps. He was in the war, and when Cetinje fell the baron and his wife had much difficulty in making their escape. At San Giovanni de Medua they boarded an Italian torpedo boat, which took them to Brindisi, being the target for the bombs of an Austrian airplane throughout the crossing. Their daughter, Yolanda, attended school on Staten Island until she was taken to Italy by her mother in 1916.

Giuseppe Brambilla, counsellor of the Italian Embassy at Washington, also has an American wife. He married in October, 1917, Miss Julia Appleton Meyer, daughter of the late George von Lengerke Meyer, who was Secretary of the Navy under President Taft. Signor Brambilla was counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Washington at that time. He was afterward sent to fill the same post in London and returned to this country last autumn.

Baroness Is a New Yorker

Baron Emile de Cartier de Marchienne is the first Belgian Ambassador to this country, the post having been raised from a legation to an embassy shortly before his appointment in 1919. He married in Paris July 16, 1919, Mrs. Hamilton Wilkes Cary, of New York.

Baroness de Cartier de Marchienne was Miss Marie B. Dow, of Boston. She has now made her third marital adventure. Her first husband was Elihu B. Frost, president of the Submarine Boat Corporation, from whom she was separated in 1909 and divorced in December of that year at Reno. January 1, 1910, she was married to Hamilton Wilkes Cary, of New York, well known socially and on the turf. He died February 15, 1917, at Palm Beach, and his widow went abroad the following winter to do relief work in France and Belgium. She first met Baron de Cartier de Marchienne during the peace conference in Paris.

Dr. Domicio da Gama was Brazilian Minister at Washington from 1911 until he was transferred to the London post last year. He married in November, 1912, Mrs. Arthur H. Hearn, widow of the son of George A. Hearn, the dry goods merchant. The wedding was celebrated at the home of Judge Elbert H. Gary. Mayor Gaynor performed the civil part of the ceremony.

A Ruler's Wife

The wife of the ruler of one of the new countries resulting from the war is an American. Thomas G. Masaryk, President of Czechoslovakia, married forty years ago Miss Garrigue, of Chicago. She was in Leipzig in 1877 studying music. Professor Masaryk was teaching there. They lived in the same boarding house and read the same books together. Miss Garrigue returned to her home in Chicago. Professor Masaryk followed a year later and married her. Since his marriage he has adopted the name Garrigue as his middle name.

President and Mme. Masaryk have two daughters, Alice and Olga. During the war, while President Masaryk was conducting his anti-Austrian propaganda in Paris and London, the younger daughter, Alice,

was imprisoned. Mme. Masaryk and the elder daughter were held under close surveillance by the Austrian authorities. Mile. Olga Masaryk made her escape from Austria in the summer of 1918 and toured America with her father, lecturing on Czechoslovakia, but Mme. Masaryk and Mile. Alice were not released until after the signing of the armistice.

Active in War Work

Lady Johnstone, wife of Sir Alan Johnstone, who was British Minister to The Hague at the beginning of the war, is another American wife of a foreign diplomat who has seen a great deal of war. Lady Johnstone was Miss Antoinette Pinchot, sister of Gifford and Amos Pinchot. Sir Alan married her while he was attached to the British Embassy in Washington near the end of the last century. She was in this country when the war began. Her son, nineteen years old, immediately went into the British army, while Lady Johnstone hurried to Holland to join her husband at The Hague.

Both of them were so active in helping the Belgian refugees in Holland that the German government protested. Lady Johnstone then went to France, where she joined in establishing the hospital at Ris Orangis, and as it was just about that time that Dr. Joseph A. Blake was forced out of the American Ambulance Corps at Neuilly and took charge of the Ris Orangis Hospital, which under his direction became one of the most efficient in France.

Sir Alan Johnstone is the third of his family to marry an American. Commodore George Johnstone, who was British Colonial Governor of Florida, married an American, Miss Charlotte Dee, while the commodore's eldest brother, the fifth baronet, Sir William Johnstone, married Miss Frances Pultenay, of Staten Island. Through these two marriages the family acquired a large amount of valuable property in this country.

Studied in Greece

Like Lady Johnstone, Mme. Slavko Y. Grouitch devoted her time to war work from the time the great struggle began in 1914. Mme. Grouitch was Miss Mabel G. Dulap, of Clarksburg, W. Va., the home of "Stonewall" Jackson. She was graduated from the University of Chicago and lectured in some of the Western states on archaeology and art. It was while a student of art in Greece in 1901 and 1902 that she met Slavko Grouitch, then Serbian Chargé d'Affaires in Athens, and married him. After their marriage they traveled for several years and lived in Belgrade and Constantinople. In 1908 M. Grouitch was appointed to the Serbian Legation in London, and shortly before the war began was made Serbian Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mme. Grouitch was in Switzerland in July, 1914, and the Austrian government refused to let her cross Austria to join her husband in Belgrade.

M. Grouitch later joined her in Switzerland as Serbian Minister to Berne. Mme. Grouitch was exceedingly active in Serbian relief work all during the war and twice toured America in behalf of the Serbs. M. Grouitch was the first minister of the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to Washington, but was recalled to Serbia to become grand marshal of the King's palace.

Floods Can Now Be Forecast as Readily as a Cold Wave

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THE recent floods on Long Island and in New Jersey are not a surprise after such a severe, prolonged winter, with its accumulated snow and ice, and no doubt there will be other disastrous inundations over certain areas should another heavy rain and thaw occur simultaneously.

New York City is fortunate in its geographical position, and is not subject to river inundation by thaws and heavy rains, although along the immediate water fronts unusually high tides during severe stormy weather occurring simultaneously with certain phases of the moon have caused some damage.

Spring rains and the melting of accumulated snow in the country and mountains swell the streams that feed the big rivers and often result in vast destruction and some loss of life in certain sections of the country, especially in the Ohio and

Mississippi valleys, but such losses have been reduced to a minimum in recent years by flood warnings issued by the Weather Bureau well in advance, thereby allowing ample time to save movable property and lives.

River and Flood Service

We are more familiar with the work of the government prophets' warnings of cold waves, frosts, storms, etc., for the benefit of shipping and shippers of perishable goods over the railroads, than with the flood precautionary advices. These warnings are disseminated by a branch of the Weather Bureau known as the river and flood service, and its forecasts are of a nature permitting more accuracy than will ever be possible in the predictions and warnings of other severe and injurious weather conditions.

A flood may be predicted from one day to three weeks in advance, according to location, and a most remarkable feature is the exactness with which the river's rise may be foretold, always within a foot, even

that of rivers in mountainous regions, where their flow is rapid. The rise of great, slow-moving rivers, such as the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio, are forecast to within the narrow margin of from one to three inches. At New Orleans this is done regularly, and the meteorologist three weeks in advance will forecast, say, a rise of twenty-three feet above low water, which he knows will result in a rush of 1,500,000 cubic feet of water past his point each second, and still, with such a rushing torrent of water to work on, he can always hit the mark within a few inches. This is done over all sections of the country subject to inundation.

But how is all this accomplished and with so much precision? The country has been divided into certain river districts, with more than 500 sub-stations equipped with river gauges. The readings of these instruments are telegraphed daily to district centers. Additional rainfall data and general character of the weather also are wired to the district head, and from this information a map is drafted from which

a daily forecast of flood probabilities is made.

With his knowledge and familiarity with the area of the catchment basin from which his rainfall and snowfall figures are received, the general topographic condition of the surface and the state of the soil—that is, whether it is in condition for the absorption of water or for "run off"—the district forecaster is enabled to execute such accurate predictions and warnings. He knows that if a slowly falling rain of considerable amount falls on a nearly level soil in condition for the admission of moisture it may cause only a slight rise, while a rapidly falling rain of the same amount over a greatly sloping surface with a saturated or frozen soil would produce a "run off" on the surface resulting in a rapid concentration of water in the channels of the tributaries and soon develop into a body of water of enormous volume and force in the river proper.

Ample Warnings

The forecaster from his study of conditions in past years knows the time necessary for the flow of the

water from the tributaries to the main stream, and the time required for the passage of the flood crests from one city to another. Along the upper Mississippi people have a short time to remove their property after warnings are issued, while those near its mouth have plenty of time to prepare for the expected flood. A high water takes one day to pass from Pittsburgh to Wheeling, two days from Pittsburgh to Parkersburg, three days from Parkersburg to Cincinnati, six days from Cincinnati to Cairo, seven days from Cairo to Vicksburg and four days from Vicksburg to New Orleans, making twenty-three days from the "Smoky City" to the Gulf of Mexico. At Pittsburgh eighteen hours is the longest range of flood advice possible, and along other rapid running rivers of the Atlantic and Pacific slopes one or two days' warning is all that can be given.

Flood stages differ with locality. The narrow channel and steep banks of the Ohio River place its danger line from thirty to fifty feet above the zero mark. (By zero mark is meant the lowest water known to exist.) An extreme height

of seventy-one feet has been recorded at Cincinnati, where the flood stage is forty-five feet. In the upper Mississippi the vertical rise average only fifteen feet to the danger line, but from St. Louis to Vicksburg they average thirty-five feet, while at New Orleans the flood stage is only thirteen feet above the zero. When flood conditions are favorable along the Mississippi readings are obtained from the various gauges every hour. Every flood during the last twenty years along this great river has been forecast with wonderful accuracy and there is no room for improvement in this work along any of the large rivers, while additional gauges are being installed along some of the smaller ones where it is deemed necessary.

Measure the Snow

Measurements of the depth of accumulated snowfall and its equivalent in water are taken in the mountains of both the East and the West, so that it will be known just what quantity of water the snow will produce when the late winter thaw commences. Moderately moist snow con-

tains on the average one-tenth its depth of water, but at times it so varies in density that fourteen inches measured at one place and only two inches at another will both produce when melted two inches of water.

To illustrate the great destruction of property resulting from floods in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, those of 1881 and 1882 culminated in a loss of about \$15,000,000 to property and 138 lives. In 1884 the region of the Ohio alone experienced damages amounting to a loss of more than \$10,000,000. Along several big rivers in 1897 the loss exceeded \$25,000,000, and in 1903 destruction amounted to about \$40,000,000. As the result of the warnings issued a week in advance of the occurrence of the flood in 1897, livestock and other movable property to the estimated value of \$15,000,000 was removed from the flooded area prior to the inundation.

The 1903 Floods

During the colossal floods from March to June, inclusive, in 1903, which were the greatest in the history of the upper Mississippi watershed, with the exception of that of 1844, the value of the advice was

emphasized in a still more remarkable degree. The warnings were issued from four days to three weeks in advance, and they were fully verified as to date, location and stage. In many localities the stages were the greatest ever known, and in no single instance did the predicted figure differ from that actually registered by more than four-tenths of a foot, the average being two-tenths of a foot. The property saved by these timely warnings no doubt exceeded that of the flood of 1897.

Seasons for floods vary with locality. Along the lower Mississippi they occur in February and March, and sometimes in January, while along the upper banks they may be deferred until May or early June. Missouri inundations hold off still later; those of the Ohio occur any time between February and June; in New England, with the spring rains in connection with the thawing out of the accumulated snow and ice; and the Columbia River floods set in about May and June, due to the late thaw in the mountains of the Pacific slope. The rivers of the East and Southeast are subject to overflow at any season except autumn, but floods are, as a rule, more severe when they come in August.